श्री शरद यादव : सभापति महोदय, यह खुद व्यापारी हैं और इस मामले में बड़े एक्सपर्ट हैं । तो हम तो अर्थशास्त्री हैं नहीं, लेकिन इतना कह सकता हूँ कि यह रनिंग एकाउंट का है । ईस्ट वेस्ट के लिए कोर्ट में केस चल रहा है और उनकी पूरी सम्पत्ति जब्त कर ली है, यही हमारे साथ में है । जो आपने पहला सवाल पूछा वह मैंने बतला दिया कि वह रनिंग एकाउंट का है ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: Sir, there are yet five minutes for the Question Hour to be over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you are right. My watch is showing a different time and the watch fixed in the House is showing and different time.

श्री सुरेश कलमाडी : ईस्ट वेस्ट का जो सवाल है वह तो अभी राइटा आफ हुआ है और एयरलाइंस का राइट आफ नहीं होना चाहिए, इसलिए तो यह सवाल है । जेट एयरलाइंस और सहारा का एक महीने में उनका कितना ड्यूज होता है? आप एडवांस डिपोजिट क्यों नहीं लेते? यह ड्यूज की सिचुएशन का सामना करने के लिए एडवांस डिपोजिट लीजिए । दूसरे, हमारा सवाल है कि जो सहारा एयरलाइंस है इसकी एक न्यूज पेपर कटिंग थी उसमें यह है कि लीज एयर क्राफ्ट जो फंड से लिया है उसका भी ड्यूज है । यह भी एक न्यूज आइटम था । Is the Government aware of this fact that they owe a big amount for the aircraft they have imported for running it in the country? When yougave permission to Sahara and Jet Airways, they have a social commitment to fly in the No.th-East. Is this commitment being kept by them?'

श्री शरद यादव : जो बाहर से पैसा ला रहे है, इसके बारे में आपने पूछा है, इस सवाल से इसका कोई वास्ता नहीं है और जो दूसरे सवाल आपने पूछे, फिर से पूछिए, हमको सुनाई नहीं दिया ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Austerity Measures

*345. DR. M.N. DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governijient are concerned with concrete austerity measures in the perspective of heavy fiscal and revenue deficit in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such measure; and

(c) whether such proposed measures could be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) It is Govermnent's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions for austerity in Government expenditur'^ have been issued. The austerity measures include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehcles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses etc. Considering the factors which contribute to the fiscal and revenue deficits, austerity measures alone can have only a limited impact on the size of these deficits.

Opening of new Post Offices in Assam

*346. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open new post offices in the State of Assam in the year 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) 24 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 7 Departmental Sub Post Offices have been opened in the State of Assam during the year 1999-2000.

(b) and (c) The district-wise details of the above mentioned post offices are shown in the attached statement.